

Remarks

Election of Species

The Office Action requires an election of one of nine species of the claimed invention, corresponding to the following groups of independent claims and their associated dependent claims: Species I, claims 1-32; Species II, claims 33-61; Species III, claims 62-99; Species IV, claims 100-136; Species V, claims 137-169; Species VI, claims 170-172; Species VII, claims 173-175; Species VIII, claims 176-178; and Species IX, claims 179-212.

Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, for immediate examination the ball game system of Species II, best seen in Figures 2A, 2B, 3 and 5B and . The remaining claims 1-32 and 62-212 have been withdrawn from consideration at this time without prejudice to Applicant's ability to file one or more divisional applications at a later date, however Applicant notes Species V, claims 137-169, is closely related (a plural form) to Species II.

Amendment of claim 33

Claim 33 has been amended to include an *elasticity control means* limitation that had been inadvertently omitted from claim 33. The amendment has support in the specification, and corrects a potential antecedent basis problem with the claim.

Objection to the figures

Applicant has not deleted any figures from the application, in light of the election and the fact that all elements of the elected claims are illustrated in the figures. Applicant looks forward to an opportunity to discuss any questions the Examiner may have with regard to this objection.

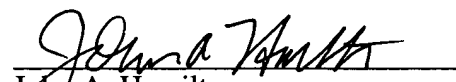
Although no fee is required, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2410, Order No. 30940-101.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Date: August 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,
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